



President's Newsletter

Number 78. April, 1998.

TORONTO IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER.

As we write this in mid-March, we're quite pleased to report that the convention response to date has been literally land-office, with members' reservations coming in from many of the 50 states as well as Canada, England, Holland (and who knows what's in the mail). The Toronto co-chairpersons (yours truly and Utz Schmidt) have been busy, busy, busy behind the scenes, and the planning and preparation for the final phases are well in hand. Utz Schmidt and spouse Shirley are computer-updating convention data on a daily basis, and our Canadian members are getting their metrology act together that undoubtedly will be one of the program highlights.

The opportunity to procrastinate has come and gone. NOW'S THE TIME TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION. We've prevailed on the Royal York Hotel to accept reservations later than customary, but you must act quickly. Your best bet is to call Utz (or Shirley) any weekday (Utz -- 248/589-4848; Shirley -- 810/786-7975) or any weekend or evening 810/739-0746) and book your room. Your reservation form can follow. As present-day jargon has it -- JUST DO IT.

LINDEYER SCALE SALE: A BIG SUCCESS.

We've gotten the report, straight from Bill himself (a detail man if ever there was one). He tells us that he sold most of his scales and weights to members near and far (including several distant continents),

(over)

and we've concluded the sale went so well because of three factors: 1) the quality of his collection; 2) the organized manner in which he cataloged the scales (number, description, capacity, price); and 3) the down-to-earth prices he placed on each item. The only problem Bill encountered was a result of ISASC's naivete, explained thus:

Over the years we've known that our mailings, sent at our bulk, not-for-profit rate, reach our members on different dates, probably within a two-week span and decidedly in random fashion, regardless of where they live. It's the postoffice way, and there's no way we know to remedy it. This never bothered us, however, because each mailing usually contains EQM, the President's Newsletter, and miscellaneous enclosures, and we felt that a week or two variance in the date of receipt didn't matter. However, when we mailed the Lindeyer list to our members, we didn't realize that unlike our usual mailings, members would be impelled to call Bill as soon as they received the list. This situation gave rise to some happy members who got to Bill early-on and also some unhappy members who got to him not-so-early-on. Unfortunately, there was nothing we could do this time except resolve that next time, when we arrange a sale, we'll remedy the terms so that the offering is made fairly to one and all. We've already gotten a number of suggestions on what to do next time, and if you have any thoughts on this matter, please let us hear from you. Meanwhile, our apologies to those members who didn't get the same chance as others. We'll do our best to see that it doesn't happen again.

AND FROM BILL HIMSELF --

To the President and the members of ISASC:

I want to express my appreciation and thanks to all the members who expressed such an enthusiastic interest in the scales and related items that I had offered for sale. The response has just been overwhelming and I must confess that at times I became frazzled from trying to keep my records straight so as not to mix up the orders. What pleased me more than anything else is the fact that my collection is finding new homes among fellow collectors who shared my interest in scales. I am truly sorry that I had to disappoint so many of you due to the vagaries of the postal service and the fact that too many of you all wanted the same items from the list. I also want to express a very special thanks to Bob Stein for his encouragement and valuable advice that he has given me at the time I was preparing the listing. I could not have done as well without his help. Thank you Bob. Lastly I hope that you will enjoy a successful and enjoyable convention in Toronto.

Bill Lindeyer

A LOSS THAT'S HARD TO ACCEPT.

Many of our members who knew Red Meade -- recently or in years past-- invariably were impressed by his vast knowledge of scales and weights and the breadth and scope of his collection. But much more importantly, each and every one of us who was privileged to know Red has lived a better life because of Red's inimitable sense of humor, his generous and compassionate spirit, his unflagging sense of optimism. Red's friends, who are legion, thrived on his goodness, and however aware they were that Red was incurably ill, they were not ready to accept the fact of his passing, for it meant saying goodbye to one of the best friends we in ISASC have ever had. Red took leave of us this past February 23rd, and he leaves a legacy of goodwill which is our largess and which makes each of us a better person because of it. To his widow, Barbara, we offer our deeply-felt condolences, as well as our thanks for her intention to remain in ISASC and to share her memories of Red with us.

AND IN THAT SAME VEIN...

We were grieved to learn that Ruth Cohn, Emil Cohn's partner in life for 63 years, passed away on March 15th. Ruth shared Emil's passion for weighing instruments, attended every ISASC convention with her husband, and at every turn acted as a goodwill ambassador for our Society. We commiserate with Emil, and offer our hope that time will assuage his grief and allow him to carry on in his usual indomitable way.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

In case you missed our report a while back that member Judy Soslau was setting up a Web site for ISASC, we can tell you that it's very much a done deal. So much so that in the past few weeks we've received WEB-generated applications (and checks) from three new members -- David Wiggins of Buffalo Gap, Texas; Marcia Cherry of Irvington, New York; and Chuck Cox of Seattle, Washington. From the look of things, that's just the beginning, and we want to thank Judy again for getting it done and then redone with our new business address. And if you'd like to pull up our Web site in case you need an application for a friend, you can locate us at WWW.collectoronline.com/clubs/ISASC/.

(over)

BYLAWS UPDATED AND IT'S TIME TO VOTE.

Those of you who like to keep abreast of our business doings will be glad to know that our revised bylaws are now completed and have been approved by our directors. Our next step is to implement some of the new bylaws provisions, the foremost one being the election of directors for terms (on a staggered basis) starting January 1, 1999. This procedure starts with the nominating committee, appointed by the president, submitting a proposed slate of directors (already done). Now, the membership is being asked to cast its vote, per the ballot enclosed. When the directors' election is concluded (deadline: June 30, 1998), then the directors, prior to the end of 1998, will elect officers for terms (also staggered) starting January 1, 1999.

Important: Please vote. Do so on the enclosed ballot, either by noting an X in the top box for the entire slate, or alternatively, by noting an X opposite the names of individual candidates. There's no need for your signature. Simply fold and insert the ballot in the envelope provided and affix a .32¢ stamp (your investment in ISASC's future well-being). And please -- do it now, so you don't overlook it later. Thanks very much.

Also important. The cost of printing and mailing precludes our sending a copy of the by-laws to every member, but if you'd like a copy, please write, call, or fax Bob Stein, ISASC, 300 W. Adams, Suite 821, Chicago, IL 60606; phone 312/263-7500; fax 312/263-7748.

GOOD NEWS ON SEVERAL FRONTS.

FRONT ONE. As you've undoubtedly noted, accompanying this Newsletter is the first EQM for 1998, which means that our editor, Diana Crawforth, is back in full swing doing what she does so well. We're happy that Diana's health is better, and we're looking forward to "catching up" with this year's EQMs, which may mean sending the next two in one mailing, either in late spring or early summer, after which we'll be back on schedule. Again, thanks for your patience and understanding.

FRONT TWO. Our Benefactor Program for 1998 concluded on a highly successful note, as illustrated by two key statistics: One, 85 members contributed (as always, on a voluntary basis), and two, the amount they gave came to within a cat's whisker of our annual goal of \$10,000. This year's list of Benefactors, to whom we are most grateful, is enclosed, along with our special thanks.

FRONT THREE. Eddy Konowitz, the man who diligently watches over our money, has prepared ISASC's Financial Statement for 1997, and as you can tell from a bottom-line perspective, our year's revenue exceeded our expenses to the tune of \$14,141. This figure, in turn, brings our total assets as of December 31, 1997, to \$37,745.00. It would appear that we're hale and healthy on the fiscal front, a good harbinger for the future of ISASC.

AND NOW, ON TO "MISCELLANY."

** If you're thinking about or making plans to visit Europe this coming fall, give thought to taking in ISASC/Europe's fall convention. It's scheduled for Sunday, October 18th, at Avery-Berkel (where the Avery Scale Museum awaits) in Warley, West Midlands, England. If you haven't "been there and done that," just ask any of our members who've been to one (or more) and they'll tell you what a good time you can expect. For more information, write John Corfield, Woodfield, Longhills Road, Church Stretton, Shropshire SY6 6DS, England.

** Some weeks after Jim and Candi Unruh visited the Stein postal scale collection (museum?), a call came from Peter Laycock of Atlanta, advising us that he and spouse Dian were planning a trip to Chicago to visit with friends, and would like to pay a call on the Stein collection (museum?). The answer, of course, was "do come, by all means," and on March 6th the Laycocks did the Stein tour, including the Evanston post office where Bob presently has 110 U.S. postal scales on display. Oh, yes, we might mention that the Laycocks collect postal scales exclusively, and have

several hundred throughout their home. So, as you can imagine, they found themselves transported to seventh heaven, scale style (scaledom?).

- ** In early February, we heard from a campus-based conservatory of film makers at Florida State University in Tallahassee which has been producing thesis films since 1991 and during that time has been the recipient of many awards and honors. Their spokesperson acquainted us with their current theatrical undertaking, a film titled "Slide Rule," for which they required 15 to 20 scales for use as props and very much integral to the plot. Could we help them? With availability/geography having to be reckoned with, we put member Martin Evans of Sarasota in touch with the film's producers, and lo and behold, it all came together. Martin agreed to provide the scales, an emissary from the school agreed to pick them up and return them, and by the time this news reaches you, the film (a copy of which will be given to ISASC) most likely will be in the can (Hollywood talk for "finished"). We'll also receive a credit line in the film's titles, and as it was put to us, "the satisfaction of knowing you have helped out determined, professional, but financially challenged young film makers."
- ** In late February, we received a nice note from Eileen (and Ray) Park of Australia, telling us that Eileen is really sorry but she won't be able to come to our Toronto convention (she's been to several in past years). They also report that they haven't added any "significant" scales to their collection recently (they only have 3,000 or so!), but that there have been several articles on their hobby in various Australian antique publications, resulting in several new members from "down under." We hope to see you at our '99 shindig, Eileen (and Ray).
- ** Speaking of articles on scales, we recently were called by Robert Gladstone, publisher of Antique and Collectibles Trader, a most popular Canadian antiques magazine. The gist of our conversation had to do with Gladstone's interest in running an article on scales in his publication, and when we proposed that his offer be

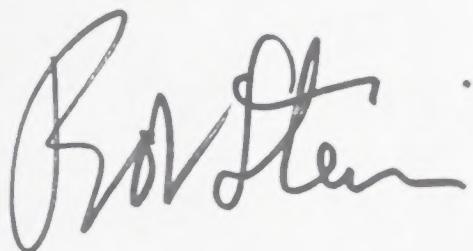
conveyed to our membership-at-large, he agreed. To those members "out there" who'd like to write an article on their collection for this first-rate publication, here's what's involved: length of article -- 2,000 to 2,300 words; pictures -- as many as possible (all will be returned); production format -- computer disc. If you're interested, write or call direct Robert Gladstone, Publisher; Antiques & Collectibles Trader, P.O. Box #38095, 550 Eglinton Avenue West, Toronto, Ontario M5N 3A8, Canada; phone 416/410-7620. And if you'd like a sample copy to look at, call me (312/263-7500) and I'll send you one.

** On a next-to-final note, spend a few minutes with our 1998 Directory enclosed. You'll be surprised to see how many members live close to you and how many are looking to get better acquainted with other collectors. Just pick up the phone and you're "in business."

AND THAT PRETTY MUCH DOES IT.

We've run out of news (and steam), so we'll say so long for now. We hope to see all of you, that's right, all of you, in Toronto. Somehow, we'll make room. Meanwhile, all the best.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Rob Gladstone". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "G".

Balancing things out

The Chicago police will donate expensive scales seized in drug raids to public school chemistry labs, it was announced.

It isn't swords into plowshares but it will have to do.

